WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

	1. A me	ethod for	detecting	g the	presence	of Hep	atitis C	Virus
(HCV) RNA	in a biological	sample,	said meth	od con	nprising:			
	(A) perfo	rming a	reverse	transo	ription	reaction	using,	as a
template, RN	NA derived f	from said	i sample	to p	oroduce	HCV-sp	ecific 1	reverse
transcription	products;							
	(B) ampli	ifying sai	d reverse	-trans	cription	products	using	one or
more pairs of	f oligonucleoti	ide prime	rs specifi	c for	HCV to	produce	HCV-s	pecific
amplification	products,							
	where	ein said p	airs are se	elected	from the	e group c	onsistin	g of:
	(a)	forware	i		prim	er		5'-
CAGAAAGO	CGTCTAGCC.	ATGGCC	STTAGT.	A-3' (C	C69F28)	<seq [<="" td=""><td>D NO.</td><td>1> and</td></seq>	D NO.	1> and
reverse prime	г							
5'-CGGTTCC	CGCAGACCA	CTATG	ECTCTC	-3' (C1	33R26)	<seq id<="" td=""><td>NO. 42</td><td>>;or</td></seq>	NO. 42	>;or
	(b)	forware	i		prim	er		5'-
GGGAGAG	CCATAGTGG	TCTGC	GAA-3'	(C131	(F25) <	SEQ ID	NO. 2	:> and
reverse prime	r 5'-CGGGGC	ACTCG	CAAGCA	CCCI	TATCA-	3' (C294I	R25) <s< td=""><td>EQ ID</td></s<>	EQ ID
NO. 7>; and	•							
	(c)	forware	i		prim	er		5'-
GTGGTCTG	CGGAACCG	GTGAG1	CACAC-3	(C14	3F26) <	SEQ ID	NO. 3>	and a
reverse prime	r selected fron	n the grou	p consist	ing of				
		(i)	5'-					
GCAAGCAC	CCTATCAG	GCAGTA	CCACA	-3' (C2	282R27)	<seq id<="" td=""><td>NO. 5</td><td>>,</td></seq>	NO. 5	>,
		(ii)	5'-					

CACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCAGGCAGTA-3' (C287R27) <SEQ ID NO. 6>; and

detecting said amplification products,

(C)

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wherein detection of said amplification products indicates the presence of HCV RNA in said sample.

- 2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said reverse transcription reaction is performed using random oligonucleotide primers.
- 3. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said reverse transcription reaction is performed using one or more oligonucleotide primers having sequences corresponding to sequences in HCV RNA.

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4. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said amplifying is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of polymerase chain reaction, ligase chain reaction, strand displacement amplification, nucleic acid single base substitution, and transcription mediated amplification.

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5. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises visualizing said amplification products by gel electrophoresis.

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- 6. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises capturing said amplification products on a solid support containing one or more HCV-specific oligonucleotide probes and quantifying said captured products using a colorimetric assay.
- 7. A method as defined in claim 6, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:
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(a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13> and

(b)

5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3'

(C252-27-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 12> when said forward primer is (C131F25) or (C143F26); and wherein said probes comprise 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' 5 (c) (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11> when said forward primer is (C69F28). A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said sample is 8. selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, urine, saliva, and cerebrospinal fluid. 10 A method for amplifying Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) DNA, said 9. method comprising: performing a polymerase chain reaction on a DNA sample (A) containing HCV DNA using one or more pairs of oligonucleotide primers specific for HCV to produce HCV-specific amplification products, 15 wherein said pairs are selected from the group consisting of: primer forward (a) CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTA-3' (C69F28) <SEQ ID NO. 1> and reverse primer 5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCACTATGGCTCTC-3' (C133R26) <SEQ ID NO. 4>;or 20 5'forward primer (b) GGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25) <SEQ ID NO. 2> and reverse primer 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25) <SEQ ID NO. 7>; and 5'primer (c) forward 25 GTGGTCTGCGGAACCGGTGAGTACAC-3 (C143F26) <SEQ ID NO. 3> and a reverse primer selected from the group consisting of

/:\	21
(i)	٠.

GCAAGCACCCTATCAGGCAGTACCACA-3' (C282R27) <SEQ ID NO. 5>,

5'-(ii)

CACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCAGGCAGTA-3' (C287R27) <SEQ ID NO. 6>.

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- 10. A method as defined in claim 9, further comprising:
- **(B)** detecting said amplification products, wherein detection of said amplification products indicates the presence of HCV DNA in said sample.

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- A method as defined in claim 10, wherein said detecting 11. comprises visualizing said amplification products by gel electrophoresis.
- 12. A method as defined in claim 10, wherein said detecting comprises capturing said amplification products on a solid support containing one or more HCV-specific oligonucleotide probes and quantifying said captured products using a colorimetric assay.
- A method as defined in claim 10, wherein said probes 13. comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

(a)

5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13> and

(b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 12> when said forward primer is (C131F25) or (C143F26); and

wherein said probes comprise

5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11> when said forward primer is (C69F28).

- 14. A method for detecting the presence of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) RNA in a biological sample, said method comprising:
- (A) performing a reverse transcription reaction using as a template RNA derived from said sample to produce HCV-specific reverse transcription products;
- (B) amplifying said reverse-transcription products using a forward primer and a reverse primer to produce HCV-specific amplification products,

wherein said forward primer consists of the oligonucleotide 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27) <SEQ ID NO. 8> and said reverse primer consists of the oligonucleotide 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3' (57R27) <SEQ ID NO. 9>; and

- (C) detecting said amplification products,
 wherein detection of said amplification products indicates the
 presence of HCV RNA in said sample.
- 15. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said reverse transcription reaction is performed using random oligonucleotide primers.
- 16. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said reverse transcription reaction is performed using one or more oligonucleotide primers having sequences corresponding to sequences in HCV RNA.
- 17. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said amplifying is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of polymerase chain reaction, ligase chain reaction, strand displacement amplification, nucleic acid single base substitution, and transcription mediated amplification.
- 18. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said detecting comprises visualizing said amplification products by gel electrophoresis.

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- 19. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said detecting comprises capturing said amplification products on a solid support containing one or more HCV-specific oligonucleotide probes and quantifying said captured products using a colorimetric assay.
- 20. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said probes are selected from the group consisting of 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 14> and 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>.
- 21. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, urine, saliva, and cerebrospinal fluid.

22. A method for amplifying Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) DNA, said method comprising:

(A) performing a polymerase chain reaction on a DNA sample containing HCV DNA using a forward primer and a reverse primer to produce HCV-specific amplification products,

wherein said forward primer consists of the oligonucleotide 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27) <SEQ ID NO. 8> and said reverse primer consists of the oligonucleotide 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3' (57R27) <SEQ ID NO. 9>.

- 23. A method as defined in claim 22, further comprising:
- (B) detecting said amplification products,

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wherein detection of said amplification products indicates the presence of HCV DNA in said sample.

- 24. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said detecting comprises visualizing said amplification products by gel electrophoresis.
- 25. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said detecting comprises capturing said amplification products on a solid support containing one or more HCV-specific oligonucleotide probes and quantifying said captured products using a colorimetric assay.
- 26. A method as defined in claim 25, wherein said probes are selected from the group consisting of 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 14> and 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>.
- 27. A method for detecting the presence of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) RNA in a biological sample, said method comprising:
- (A) performing a reverse transcription reaction using as a template RNA derived from said sample to produce HCV-specific reverse transcription products;
- (B) amplifying said reverse-transcription products using one or more pairs of 5' NCR oligonucleotide primers specific for HCV and one or more pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers to produce HCV-specific amplification products,

wherein said 5' NCR primer pairs are selected from the group consisting of:

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	(a)	forwa	ırd	primer	5'-
	CAGAAAGCGTCTAGG	CATGG	GTTAGTA-	·3' (C69F28) <	SEQ ID NO. 1> and
	reverse primer				
	5'-CGGTTCCGCAGAC	CACTATO	GGCTCTC-3	'(C133R26) <	SEQ ID NO. 4>;or
5	(b)	forwa	ırd	primer	5'-
	GGGAGAGCCATAGTC				
	reverse primer 5'-CGGG	GCACTC	GCAAGCAC	CCTATCA-3'	(C294R25) <seq id<="" td=""></seq>
	NO. 7>; and				
	(c)			primer	
10	GTGGTCTGCGGAACC	CGGTGAC	GTACAC-3 ((C143F26) <se< td=""><td>EQ ID NO. 3> and a</td></se<>	EQ ID NO. 3> and a
	reverse primer selected fi	rom the gr	oup consistin	g of	
		(i)	5'-		
	GCAAGCACCCTATCA	AGGCAG	raccaca-3	s' (C282R27) <	SEQ ID NO. 5>,
		(ii)	5'-		
15	CACTCGCAAGCACC				
	wl				igonucleotide primers
	comprises a forward	_		9	
	GGTGGCTCCATCTTA				
	reverse primer	consistin	•		gonucleotide 5'-
20	AGGCCAGTATCAGC) ID NO. 9>; and
	(C) de		d amplification		1:6 4:
					nplification products
	indicates the presence of	HCV RN	A in said sam	iple.	
			٠ دم. د	in alaim 27	wherein said reverse
25					wherein said reverse
	transcription reaction is	performed	using randor	n ongonucieoti	de primers.

29. A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said reverse transcription reaction is performed using one or more oligonucleotide primers having sequences corresponding to sequences in HCV RNA.

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30. A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said amplifying is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of polymerase chain reaction, ligase chain reaction, strand displacement amplification, nucleic acid single base substitution, and transcription mediated amplification.

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31. A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said detecting comprises visualizing said amplification products by gel electrophoresis.

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- 32. A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said detecting comprises capturing said amplification products on a solid support containing one or more HCV-specific oligonucleotide probes and quantifying said captured products using a colorimetric assay.
- 33. A method as defined in claim 32, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

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- (a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13> and
- (b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25) or (C143F26);

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wherein said probes comprise

(c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28), and

wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group

consisting of 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (d) (30PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 14>; and 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (e) 5 (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>. A method as defined in claim 27, wherein said sample is 34. selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, urine, saliva, and cerebrospinal fluid. 10 A method for amplifying Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) DNA, said 35. method comprising: performing a polymerase chain reaction on a DNA sample (A) containing HCV DNA using one or more pairs of 5' NCR oligonucleotide primers 15 specific for HCV and one or more pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers to produce HCV-specific amplification products, wherein said 5' NCR primer pairs are selected from the group consisting of: 5'primer forward (a) 20 CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTA-3' (C69F28) <SEQ ID NO. 1> and reverse primer 5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCACTATGGCTCTC-3' (C133R26) <SEQ ID NO. 4>;or 5'primer forward (b) GGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25) <SEQ ID NO. 2> and 25 reverse primer 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25) <SEQ ID NO. 7>; and

		(c)	forward		primer	5'-	
	GTGGTCTGCGG	AACCC	GTGAGTA	CAC-3 (C14	3F26) <seq ii<="" th=""><th>NO. 3> and a</th></seq>	NO. 3> and a	
	reverse primer selected from the group consisting of						
	-		(i) 5'-				
5	GCAAGCACCCTA	ATCAC	GCAGTAC	CACA-3' (C	282R27) <seq< td=""><td>ID NO. 5>,</td></seq<>	ID NO. 5>,	
			(ii) 5'-				
	CACTCGCAAGC	ACCCT	TATCAGGC	AGTA-3' (C2	287R27) <seq i<="" td=""><td>D NO. 6>; and</td></seq>	D NO. 6>; and	
			wherein e	ach of said	pairs of 3' NCR	oligonucleotide	
	primers comprises	a fo	rward prim	er consisting	g of the olig	onucleotide 5'-	
10	GGTGGCTCCATC						
	reverse prime	r (consisting	of th	ne oligonuo	cleotide 5'-	
	AGGCCAGTATC	AGCA(CTCTCTGC	AGTC-3 (57E	R27) <seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>VO. 9>.</td></seq>	VO. 9>.	
	36.	A m	ethod as defi	ned in claim	35, further comp	orising:	
15	(B)	dete	cting said am	plification pr	roducts,		
		whe	rein detection	n of said amp	olification produ	ects indicates the	
	presence of HCV I	ONA in	said sample.				
	37.	A n	nethod as de	efined in cla	im 36, wherein	n said detecting	
20	comprises visualizi	ng said	amplification	n products by	gel electrophor	esis.	
	38.	A n	nethod as de	efined in cla	im 36, wherein	n said detecting	

using a colorimetric assay.

A method as defined in claim 38, wherein said probes **39**. comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:

comprises capturing said amplification products on a solid support containing one or

more HCV-specific oligonucleotide probes and quantifying said captured products

	(a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-
	25-PRB) <seq 13="" id="" no.=""> and</seq>
	(b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3'
	(C252-27-PRB) <seq 12="" id="" no.=""> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25)</seq>
5	or (C143F26);
	wherein said probes comprise
	(c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3'
	(C96-22-PRB) <seq 11="" id="" no.=""> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28);</seq>
	and
10	wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group
	consisting of
	(d) 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3'
	(30PRB25) <seq 14="" id="" no.="">; and</seq>
	(e) 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3'
15	(32PRB25) <seq 15="" id="" no.="">.</seq>
	40. An oligonucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
	5'-CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTA-3' (C69F28)
	<seq 1="" id="" no.="">.</seq>
20	5'-GGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25)
	<seq 2="" id="" no.="">.</seq>
	5'-GTGGTCTGCGGAACCGGTGAGTACAC-3 (C143F26)
	<seq 3="" id="" no.="">.</seq>
	5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCACTATGGCTCTC-3' (C133R26)
25	<seq 4="" id="" no.="">.</seq>
•	5'-GCAAGCACCCTATCAGGCAGTACCACA-3' (C282R27)
	<seq 5="" id="" no.="">.</seq>
	5'-CACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCAGGCAGTA-3' (C287R27)

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<SEQ ID NO. 6>. 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25) <SEQ ID NO. 7>. 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27) <SEQ ID NO. 8>. 5 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3 (57R27) <SEQ ID NO. 9>. 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11>. 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB) 10 <SEQ ID NO. 12>. 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13>. 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 14>. 15 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>. An HCV-specific amplification primer oligonucleotide 41. selected from the group consisting of: 20 5'-CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTA-3' (C69F28) <SEQ ID NO. 1>. 5'-GGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25) <SEQ ID NO. 2>. 5'-GTGGTCTGCGGAACCGGTGAGTACAC-3 (C143F26) 25 <SEQ ID NO. 3>. 5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCACTATGGCTCTC-3' (C133R26) <SEQ ID NO. 4>.

5'-GCAAGCACCCTATCAGGCAGTACCACA-3' (C282R27) <SEQ ID NO. 5>. 5'-CACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCAGGCAGTA-3' (C287R27) <SEQ ID NO. 6>. 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25) 5 <SEQ ID NO. 7>. 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27) <SEQ ID NO. 8>. 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3 (57R27) <SEQ ID NO. 9>. 10 A probe comprising an oligonucleotide selected from the 42. group consisting of: 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 11>. 15 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 12>. 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB) <SEQ ID NO. 13>. 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25) 20 <SEQ ID NO. 14>. 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25) <SEQ ID NO. 15>. A kit for amplifying HCV DNA derived from HCV RNA, 43. 25 said kit comprising one or more pairs of 5' NCR oligonucleotide primers, wherein

said 5' NCR primer pairs are selected from the group consisting of:

	(a)	forward	primer	5'-
	CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCC	ATGGCGTTAC	GTA-3' (C69F28) <seq i<="" td=""><td>D NO. 1> and</td></seq>	D NO. 1> and
	reverse primer			
	5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCA	CTATGGCTC	rc-3' (C133R26) <seq ii<="" td=""><td>NO. 4>;</td></seq>	NO. 4>;
5	(b)	forward	primer	5'-
	GGGAGAGCCATAGTGG	TCTGCGGAA	-3' (C131F25) <seq id<="" td=""><td>NO. 2> and</td></seq>	NO. 2> and
	reverse primer 5'-CGGGGC	ACTCGCAAG	CACCCTATCA-3' (C294	R25) <seq id<="" td=""></seq>
	NO. 7>; and			
	(c)	forward	primer	5'-
10	GTGGTCTGCGGAACCG	GTGAGTACAG	C-3 (C143F26) <seq id<="" td=""><td>NO.3> and a</td></seq>	NO.3> and a
	reverse primer selected from	n the group cons	sisting of	
		(i) 5'-		
	GCAAGCACCCTATCAG	GCAGTACCA	CA-3' (C282R27) <seq ii<="" td=""><td>O NO. 5>,</td></seq>	O NO. 5>,
		(ii) 5'-		
15	CACTCGCAAGCACCCT	ATCAGGCAG	TA-3' (C287R27) <seq ii<="" td=""><td>NO. 6>.</td></seq>	NO. 6>.
20	44. A kit pairs of 3' NCR oligonucle oligonucleotide primers oligonucleotide 5'-GGTGG NO. 8> and a rever AGGCCAGTATCAGCAC	eotide primers, comprises a CTCCATCTTA se primer co	forward primer consing GCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1) insisting of the oligon	sting of the F27) <seq id<br="">nucleotide 5'-</seq>
25	45. A kit probes.	as defined in o	claim 43, further comprision	ng one or more
	46. A ki	t as defined in o	claim 44, further comprision	ng one or more
	probes.			

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	47. A kit as defined in claim 45, wherein said probes comprise a
	member selected from the group consisting of:
	(a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-
5	25-PRB) <seq 13="" id="" no.=""> and</seq>
	(b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3'
	(C252-27-PRB) <seq 12="" id="" no.=""> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25)</seq>
	or (C143F26); and
	wherein said probes comprise
10	(c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3'
	(C96-22-PRB) <seq 11="" id="" no.=""> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28).</seq>
	48. A kit as defined in claim 46, wherein said probes comprise a
	member selected from the group consisting of:
` 15	(a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-
	25-PRB) <seq 13="" id="" no.=""> and</seq>
	(b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3'
	(C252-27-PRB) <seq 12="" id="" no.=""> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25)</seq>
	or (C143F26);
20	wherein said probes comprise
	(c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3'
	(C96-22-PRB) <seq 11="" id="" no.=""> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28);</seq>
	and
	wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group
25	consisting of
	(d) 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3'
	(30PRB25)
	<seq 14="" id="" no.="">; and</seq>

(e) 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3'

(32PRB25)

<SEQ ID NO. 15>.

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49. A kit as defined in claim 43, wherein said pair of 5' NCR primers consists of 5'-CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTA-3' (C69F28) <SEQ ID NO. 1> and 5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCACTATGGCTCTC-3' (C133R26) <SEQ ID NO. 4>.

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50. A kit as defined in claim 43, wherein said pair of 5' NCR primers consists of 5'-GGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25)<SEQ ID NO. 2> and 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25)<SEQ ID NO. 7>.

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51. A kit for amplifying HCV cDNA derived from HCV RNA, said kit comprising one or more pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers, wherein each of said pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers comprises a forward primer consisting of the oligonucleotide 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27)

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<SEQ ID NO. 8> and a reverse primer consisting of the oligonucleotide 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3 (57R27)<SEQ ID NO. 9>.

52. A kit as defined in claim 51, further comprising one or more probes.

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53. A kit as defined in claim 52, wherein said probes are selected from the group consisting of:

		(a)	5'-GCGGCTCA	COGACCITICACAGCI	A-3
	(30PRB25)				
	<seq 14="" id="" no.="">; a</seq>	ınd			
		(b)	5'-ATGCGGCT	CACGGACCTTTCACAG	C-3'
5	(32PRB25)				
	<seq 15="" id="" no.="">.</seq>				
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	54.			e presence of HCV DN	
	comprising one or n	nore pa	irs of 5' NCR olig	gonucleotide primers, whe	rein said 5'
10	NCR primer pairs are	e select	ed from the group	consisting of:	
		(a)	forward	primer	5'-
	CAGAAAGCGTCT	AGCC.	ATGGCGTTAGT.	A-3' (C69F28) <seq 1<="" id="" td=""><td>NO. 1> and</td></seq>	NO. 1> and
	reverse primer				
	5'-CGGTTCCGCAG	ACCA	CTATGGCTCTC	-3' (C133R26) <seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>O. 4>;or</td></seq>	O. 4>;or
15		(b)	forward	primer	5'-
	GGGAGAGCCATA	GTGG	TCTGCGGAA-3'	(C131F25) <seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>O. 2> and</td></seq>	O. 2> and
	reverse primer 5'-CC	GGGG	CACTCGCAAGC	ACCCTATCA-3' (C294R2	5) <seq id<="" td=""></seq>
	NO. 7>, and	-			
		(c)	forward	primer	5'-
20	GTGGTCTGCGGA	ACCG	GTGAGTACAC-3	(C143F26) <seq id="" no<="" td=""><td>). 3> and a</td></seq>). 3> and a
	reverse primer select				
	•		(i) 5'-		
	GCAAGCACCCTA	TCAG		-3' (C282R27) <seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>O. 5>,</td></seq>	O. 5>,
	00.2.0000		(ii) 5'-		
25	CACTCGCAAGCA	СССТ	()	-3' (C287R27) <seq id="" n<="" td=""><td>O. 6>.</td></seq>	O. 6>.
25	CACTOGCAAGCA	CCCI		(020,121,)	
	55	۸ <i>ا</i>	as defined in clai	m 54. further comprising	one or more

pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers, wherein each of said pairs of 3' NCR

oligonucleotide primers comprises a forward primer consisting of the oligonucleotide 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27)<SEQ ID NO. 8> and a reverse primer consisting of the oligonucleotide 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3 (57R27)<SEQ ID NO. 9>.

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- 56. A kit as defined in claim 54, further comprising one or more probes.
- 57. A kit as defined in claim 55, further comprising one or more probes.
 - 58. A kit as defined in claim 56, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB)<SEQ ID NO. 13> and
 - (b) 5'-CCTTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-27-PRB)<SEQ ID NO. 12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25) or (C143F26);

wherein said probes comprise

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- (c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB)<SEQ ID NO. 11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28).
- 59. A kit as defined in claim 57, wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) 5'-TTTCGCGACCCAACACTACTCGGCT-3' (C252-25-PRB)<SEQ ID NO. 13> and

(C252-27-PRB)<SEQ ID NO. 12> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C131F25) or (C143F26);

wherein said probes comprise

(c) 5'-GGGTCCTGGAGGCTGCACGACACTCAT-3' (C96-22-PRB)<SEQ ID NO. 11> when said 5' NCR forward primer is (C69F28); and

wherein said probes comprise a member selected from the group consisting of

(d) 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3'

(30PRB25)

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<SEQ ID NO. 14>; and

(e) 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3'

<SEQ ID NO. 15>.

(32PRB25)

- 60. A kit as defined in claim 54, wherein said pair of 5' NCR primers consists of 5'-CAGAAAGCGTCTAGCCATGGCGTTAGTA-3' (C69F28) <SEQ ID NO. 1> and 5'-CGGTTCCGCAGACCACTATGGCTCTC-3' (C133R26) <SEQ ID NO. 4>.
- 61. A kit as defined in claim 54, wherein said pair of 5' NCR primers consists of 5'-GGGAGAGCCATAGTGGTCTGCGGAA-3' (C131F25)<SEQ ID NO. 2> and 5'-CGGGGCACTCGCAAGCACCCTATCA-3' (C294R25)<SEQ ID NO. 7>.
- 62. A kit for detecting the presence of HCV RNA, said kit comprising one or more pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers, wherein each of

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said pairs of 3' NCR oligonucleotide primers comprises a forward primer consisting of the oligonucleotide 5'-GGTGGCTCCATCTTAGCCCTAGTCACG-3' (1F27)<SEQ ID NO. 8> and a reverse primer consisting of the oligonucleotide 5'-AGGCCAGTATCAGCACTCTCTGCAGTC-3 (57R27)<SEQ ID NO. 9>.

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- 63. A kit as defined in claim 62, further comprising one or more probes.
- 64. A kit as defined in claim 63, wherein said probes are selected from the group consisting of 5'-GCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGCTA-3' (30PRB25)

 SEQ ID NO. 14> and 5'-ATGCGGCTCACGGACCTTTCACAGC-3' (32PRB25)

<SEQ ID NO. 15>.